

A MANUAL FOR ENGAGED COUPLES  
Who Desire to be Wed at  
University Lutheran Chapel



University Lutheran Chapel  
316 10th Avenue SE  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414  
612-331-2747

## OFFICIAL POLICY OF UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL

The pastor(s) of University Lutheran Chapel will not under any circumstances conduct marriages that are not in accord with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures of the Christian Faith, in particular, unions, whether sanctioned by the state or not, consisting of anything other than one man and one woman. The facilities of University Lutheran Chapel will not be used for marriages other than those conducted by her pastor(s) or with the permission of her pastor(s) and in accord with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures of the Christian Faith.

(Adopted July 9, 2013)

### INTRODUCTION

The fact that a Christian wedding is a worship service will govern almost every detail of service planning. In planning, the couple will need to always ask the question “would this be appropriate in the Divine Service on Sunday morning?” If the answer is “no”, then that item should probably be discarded.

Because the wedding service is a worship service being held at a particular congregation, the pastor of that congregation is the final authority on all matters touching the worship service and the rite of holy matrimony itself. The pastor reserves the right to refuse to marry any couple who will not cooperate in this area.

### THE LITURGY

Because the marriage service is first and foremost a worship service, the wedding will normally take place within the liturgy of the Church. These liturgies have been handed down from the earliest Christian times and are the Church’s voice through the ages.

The rite of marriage itself will be performed according to one of the following books: *The Book of Common Prayer* (1945 edition), *The Lutheran Agenda*, *Lutheran Worship Agenda*, or *Lutheran Service Book Agenda*. The vows will not be written by the couple, but will be spoken as they are written in these volumes.

The rite of marriage will be set within a larger liturgical context. The choice of liturgy depends upon the time of day that the ceremony is to take place. If the marriage is in the morning the liturgy will be the Order of Matins, the Order of Terce (Prayer at Nine O’Clock), or the Order of Morning Prayer. If the ceremony is in the late afternoon or evening, the liturgy will be the Order of Vespers or the Order of Evening Prayer. The couple may choose to use settings of these liturgies found in either *Lutheran Service*

*Book, Lutheran Worship or The Lutheran Hymnal.* If the ceremony is in the early afternoon the liturgy may be either the Order of Noonday Prayer (Sext), or of Three O' Clock Prayer (Nones). The Order of Holy Communion will not ordinarily be used due to pastoral concerns over the proper administration of the Sacrament.

## MUSIC

Music is an integral part of the Church's worship. Music not only serves to accompany the message of the text of song, but also carries a message all its own. It is a powerful tool that can be used either to enhance the meaning and purpose of words, or detract from those words. Likewise, music can either enhance our reverence in worship, or it can detract from that reverence. Great care must therefore be taken when choosing the music of the wedding service.

The couple will need to choose organ preludes and postludes, hymns, and a canticle. For your convenience, the following list is an example of pieces that fit nicely into the wedding service and have the pastor's pre-approval.

### Preludes and Postludes:

Purcell, "Trumpet Tune and Air"

Bach, "Kommst du nun, Jesu"

Most sacred music by Bach, Buxtehude, Byrd, Charpentier, Howells, Mendelssohn, Purcell, Praetorius, Stanley

### Processionals:

Charpentier, Prelude from "Te Deum"

Bach, "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring", "Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme", "Sheep May Safely Graze"

Clarke, "Trumpet Voluntary"

Frescobaldi, "Canzona I"

Pachelbel, "Canon and Gigue in G minor"

Handel, "Minuet from Music for the Royal Fireworks"

### Hymns:

"Alleluia! Let Praises Ring" LSB #822, LW #437, TLH #23

"Praise the Almighty, My Soul Adore Him" LSB # 797, LW #445, TLH #26

"Now Thank We All Our God" LSB #895, LW #443, TLH #36

"Blest be the Tie that Binds" LSB #649, LW #295, TLH #464

“The Church’s One Foundation” LSB #644, LW #289, TLH #473  
“Lord Jesus, Thou the Church’s Head” LSB #647, LW #293, TLH #477  
“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” LSB #516, LW #177, TLH #609  
“Lord, Who at Cana’s Wedding Feast” LSB #859, LW #252, TLH #620  
“O Father, All Creating” LSB #858, LW #251, TLH #621  
“The Voice that Breathed o’er Eden” TLH #622  
“O Perfect Love” LW #253, TLH #623  
“O Blessed Home Where Man and Wife” LW #466, TLH #624  
“Oh, Blest the House, Whate’er Befall” LSB #862, LW #467, TLH #625  
“For Many Years, O God of Grace” LW #325, TLH #639  
“Gracious Savior, Grant Your Blessing” LSB #860

### Canticles:

At Matins or Morning Prayer:

“Te Deum Laudamus” LSB p.223-225, LSB #941, LW #8, TLH p.35-37  
“Benedictus” LSB p. 226-227 or 238-240, LW p.217-218 or  
p.239-242, TLH p.38-39  
“Benedicite, Omnia Opera” LSB #931, LW #9  
“Confitebor Tibi” LSB #927, TLH p.120  
“Exultavit Cor Meum” LSB #928, TLH p.120-121  
“Gaudens gaudebo” LSB #929

At Vespers or Evening Prayer

“Te Deum Laudamus” LSB p.223-225, LSB #941, LW #8, TLH p.35-37  
“Magnificat” LSB p.231-232 or p.248-249, LW p.228-230  
or p.255-257, TLH p.43

Please note that there is no canticle in the liturgies of Terce, Sext or None.

### Recessional:

Bach, “Nun danket alle Gott”  
Stanley, “Movement 4, Allegro, Suite from Ten Voluntaries”  
Most sacred music by Bach, Buxtehude, Byrd, Charpentier, Howells, Mendelssohn, Purcell, Praetorius, Stanley

Please note that the Wedding Marches of Wagner and Mendelssohn may not be used due to their pagan origins. “Tocata and Fugue in D minor” by Bach also may not be used.

The couple may use one of the chapel's organists, or may choose an organist of their own. Other musicians may be employed in the service as well, especially strings, trumpet, and other brass instrumentalists. Guitar may be used if played in the classical style.

Many couples desire to have a soloist perform at some point in the service. The couple may choose their own soloist and music. However, due to the nature of the Church's worship, certain styles of music are simply not appropriate and may not be used. These include, but are not necessarily limited to: Opera, Jazz, Blues, Showtunes, Rhythm & Blues, Country Western, Folk, Pop, Rock & Roll, Rap. All music and lyrics must be approved by the pastor.

The hiring of all musicians is the responsibility of the couple. Please consult with your musicians regarding appropriate honoraria. Also please make sure that the music you choose is not beyond the abilities of your musicians.

## ATTIRE

Due to the solemn nature of this occasion, formal attire should be worn. The bride and her bridesmaids should wear dresses. Because these will be worn at a worship service in the sight of all, certain accommodations must be made for modesty's sake. Dresses may not be too short (above the knee) or plunge too deep in the front or in the back. The groom and his groomsmen should wear a conservative suit or a tuxedo. Tennis shoes may not be worn. Under no circumstances may costumes be worn by the wedding party (e.g. Hawaiian shirts and Bermuda shorts, cowboy outfits, medieval outfits, togas, etc.)

## FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

In the worship service one must always be concerned with sacred space. Thus care must be taken when decorating the chapel. As in all worship services, the focal point and center of worship is the altar. Therefore also for weddings the chapel decorations should lead all eyes to the altar.

The paraments (altar, lectern, and pulpit hangings) will be the proper color of the season or day and are not to be changed for the wedding service. The couple may wish to take this into consideration when choosing "their colors".

### Colors of the Church Year

GREEN All days apart from those below.

BLUE Season of Advent

PURPLE Season of Lent

WHITE Season of Christmas, Season of Easter, Feasts of Our Lord and certain Saint's Days

RED Week of Pentecost, Reformation Day, Martyrs' Days, Evangelists' Days, most Apostles' Days.

Flowers may be tastefully placed throughout the chapel. They must not, however be placed in such a way that they interfere with the liturgical space and the necessary movements of the pastor and wedding party. The following list of do's and don'ts should be followed.

- ◆ Do place flowers beside the altar.  
Don't place flowers on the mensa (top) of the altar itself.
- ◆ Do place flowers before the lectern and pulpit.  
Don't block the congregation's view of the speaker or of the paraments.
- ◆ Do place flowers on stands at the side in the chancel area.  
Don't place flowers on the communion rail, or anywhere where they may interfere with the movement between pulpit, lectern, altar and center aisle.
- ◆ Do place flowers at the ends of the seating rows.  
Don't place flowers in the aisle.
- ◆ Don't place flowers on or in the Baptismal Font or on the Paschal Candle Stand.
- ◆ Don't place flowers on the piano or organ.

Other decorations may include a wedding banner, aisle candles, an aisle runner, and a marriage icon. Any special candles, such as aisle candles, must be provided by the couple. Candles in the candelabra and torches in the chancel will be provided by the chapel.

Decorating must be completed at least 1 hour prior to the service. When a florist is engaged to furnish decorations, he or she should be asked beforehand to follow the above guidelines, to respect the sacredness of the house of God, and to do his or her work reverently.

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

Photographers, like decorators should be asked to respect the sacredness of God's house and of the worship service. No photographs are to be taken during the wedding ceremony or liturgy proper. (This does not include processional and recessional.) If photos are desired during the ceremony,

they must be taken from the back of the chapel without a flash and may not under any circumstances be taken in the chancel proper. Formal photographs may be taken either before or after the wedding at the discretion of the couple. As with decorating, all photographic equipment must be removed from the chancel and nave at least 1 hour before the service.

## VIDEOGRAPHERS

Videographers are urged to follow the same instructions as the photographers. All video taping during the service should be done from the rear of the chapel. Under no circumstances may the videographer stand in the chancel during the service.

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Questions concerning matters not addressed in this manual should be directed to the pastor, who has final authority when determining the details of the wedding service and chapel use.

*The Rev. David A. Kind, Campus Pastor  
University Lutheran Chapel  
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*Tuesday of Trinity V, July 2, 2002*

*Revised Tuesday of Sexagesima, February 13, 2007*

*Revised Wednesday of Trinity VI, July 10, 2013*